SYNCOPACMA LARSENIELLA (GOZMANY): A HITHERTO UNDER-RECORDED SPECIES

By R. J. Heckford*

As a result of making some genitalia slide preparations in 1981, I discovered that all my specimens of a *Syncopacma* which I had previously determined as *cinctella* (Clerck) in fact were *larseniella* (Gozmany). My specimens came from Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. Goater (1974) does not record *larseniella* from either Hampshire or the Isle of Wight and Emmet (1981) does not record it from Essex, although both record *cinctella*. However neither state whether the records were confirmed by examination of the genitalia.

As I could find little published about *larseniella* I hope that the following note is of some interest.

Stainton (1867), in describing *taeniolella* (Zeller), recognized *ligulella* (*larseniella*) and *vorticella* (*cinctella*) as distinct species, but stated that they were not readily distinguishable from each other. *Taeniolella* differs from both in that the distinct white fascia on the upper surface of forewing extends to the under surface and forms a costal spot on the hindwing.

Meyrick (1928) sank *ligulella* as a synonym of *vorticella*. However Pierce and Metcalfe (1935) showed that *ligulella* was a good species. Wolff (1958) then discovered that the type of *ligulella* in Zeller's collection was a specimen of *vorticella*. He named the now unnamed species *larseniella*. Gozmany was writing a paper on the *Syncopacma* at the time and knew of this. Therefore he named the species *larseniella* (Wolff). However Gozmany's paper was published first, so the species must be named *larseniella* (Gozmany).

Wolff illustrated only the male genitalia of the *Syncopacma* he described because of uncertainty of obtaining correctly determined females. He stated that *larseniella* "can hardly be separated from *vorticella* without examination of the genitalia." I do not have any specimens of *cinctella*, but have compared my *larseniella* with *cinctella* in the British Museum (Natural History) and can find no macroscopic differences.

The two species are readily distinguishable on the genitalia. I have bred both males and females from one small locality and they agree with Pierce and Metcalfe's illustrations of *larseniella*, save in two respects in the male. Wolff's illustrations of the male are more accurate. Pierce and Metcalfe show the pegs at the uncus in two straight lines. Wolff shows them as two diamond shaped groups and my specimens agree with this. Also, Pierce and Metcalfe show the vinculum arms as broad and rounded, but they are long and narrow (as shown by Wolff) although depending on the mounting they can look similar to Pierce and Metcalfe's illustration.

I failed to make a description of the larvae but noted that generally they agreed with Meyrick's description of *taeniolella*. I took several larvae, which were nearly full grown, at three localities at Plympton, Devon between 25th. and 28th. May 1979. They were

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feeding between spun leaves of *Lotus uliginosus*. The adults emerged between 19th. and 23rd. June 1979. It seems that in the wild they emerge later, as the previous year I had taken several adults at one of the localities late in the afternoon on 21st. and 22nd. July.

On 20th. June 1979 I found two larvae between spun leaves of *Lotus uliginosus* at Shapwick Heath, Somerset, whilst on a Nature Conservancy Council survey. These produced two adults on 10th. July 1979. My only specimen from Cornwall was taken at M.V.L. at Saltash on 11th July 1971.

Dr. J. R. Langmaid has since dissected some of his *cinctella* and these have proved to be *larseniella*. They were taken in Hampshire, Petworth, Sussex and Ramsey, Essex. All of those which were bred were taken on *Lotus uliginosus*. Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton has one specimen from Hampshire and two females bred from *L. uliginosus* from Fingringhoe, Essex.

I suspect that dissection of many presumed *cinctella* may show them to be *larseniella*. Perhaps *larseniella* is the commoner species. There are now confirmed records of this species from Vice-Counties 2, 3, 6, 11, 13 and 19.

I am grateful to Messrs J. R. Langmaid and E. C. Pelham-Clinton for allowing me to refer to their unpublished records.

References

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ALOPHORA S. S. HEMIPTERA (FAB.) (DIPT., TACHINIDAE) IN VC 69. — On 2 July 1982 I was collecting diptera visiting flowers, mainly Umbelliferae, on the edge of Holker Moss (SD 3579). During my visit I took two specimens of *A. hemiptera*, both females, and saw others but did not catch them. F. I. van Emden (*Handbk. for the Identification of British Insects*, **X**: Pt. 4 (a): 27) reports *hemiptera* as occurring from Yorkshire southwards. My record is not however the most northerly for Britain as T. H. Pennington (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **113**: 256) records the species from Stirlingshire and also draws attention to the record by Crowson et al. (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **102**: 71) of specimens taken in central Ayrshire. — Dr. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Kendal Wood, New Hutton Cumbria LA8 OAQ. 28.iv.1982.